(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z . R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) Government of India in Ministry of Urban Development have issued orders advising Government Departments to encourage use of non wood materials including synthetic materials in buildings in order to conserve forests.

GATT negotiations at Uruguay

1651. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the trends of GATT Negotiations going on in Uruguay;

(b) whether it is a fact that U.S. Government are holding out a threat to block the imports from developing countries if they do not strengthen their patent acts in line with the American wishes:

(c) what are the salient features of the brief given to the Indian Delegation participating in the GATT deliberations: and

(d) how Government are going to safeguard the national interest about our foreign trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) The Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations launched in September, 1986 are the most diversified and complex multilateral trade negotiations eld so far. The trend of the negotiations has been that the progress has been slow in the areas of interest to developing countries while attempts are being made to accelerate progress on new issues which are of importance to developed countries.

(b) It is true that the Government of the United States of America is treating lack of adequate protection of intellectual property rights' as a basis for imposing trade sanctions.

(c) India considers these negotiations as an opportunity for stemming erosion of the GATT system and wants to preserve the basic principles of GATT and strengthen its multilateral rules and disciplines. We are anxious to ensure that the flexibility available to developing countries in the use of trade policy measures and the recognition of the needs for special and differential treatment for them are preserved and further strengthened. We also feel that developing countries should not be required to make concessions that are inconsistent with their developmental, financial and trade needs. India's stand in the Uruguay Round is guided by these approaches. However, multilateral trade negotiations like the Uruguay Round involve complex negotiations and the position to be adopted by India on each of the subjects covered by these negotiations would have to be evolved on the basis of developments in the coming years.

(d) India would strive to safeguard its interest by seeking that any new multilateral disciplines that are developed take due account of its national policies and objectives. Efforts are also being made to widen the support for the Indian point of view by trying to coordinate positions with other developing countries.

Surrender of Policemen accused in Ram Swarup Case

1652. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the policemen who were absconding in the case of Ram Swarup since September 16, 1988 have since surrendered as reported in the Times of India of the 27th October, 1988 and that two policemen are still absconding; and

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the two absconding accused are doing so with police connivance and if so, what steps have been taken so far to trace them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Efforts have been made by Delhi Police to arrest the accused. Search for them was made at various places in Delhi. Police parties were also sent to their native places in Aligarh and Mathura Districts.

Agricultural credit given by banks

1653. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the annual agricultural credit given by all the public sector banks as a percentage of their total advances in the decade ending March, 1988;

(b) whether Government propose to increase such percentage from the current year onwards as a special case to help farmers to cope up with their drought related problems;

(c) what is the annual public sector bank lending to agricultural sector as a percentage of the value of gross annual agricultural production;

(d) what is the estimated quantum of loans availed annually by the farmers from private money lenders;

(e) what steps are being taken by Government to eliminate such lending; and

(f) how much of the agricultural credit extended by the public sector banks is in the form of crop loans and what is the amount released as gold loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The percentage of Agriculture Credit in the total outstanding advances of public sector banks from the year ending December 1979 to December 1987 is set out below:

December 1979	12.5
December 1980	18.1
December 1981	17.0
December 1982	16.2
December 1983	16.8
December 1984	17.4
December 1985	18.2
December 1986	18.1
December 1987	19.1

(b) The RBI had advised all scheduled commercial banks to improve the share of Direct Agriculture Advances in total bank credit to 15% by the end of March 1985 and to 16% by the end of March 1987. The banks have been further advised to increase the share of Direct Agriculture Advances in total bank credit to 17% by the end of March 1989.

(c) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent possible.

(f) The present reporting system does not yield information pertaining to gold loans as a part of crop loan separately. However, the data for short term agricultural loans (including crop loans) outstanding in respect of all scheduled commercial banks for 3 year period ended June 1986 are given below:

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Year ended June	No. of A/cs.	Balance Outstanding
1984	5962699	163758
1985	6317454	196419
1986	7229092	235544